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SUBJECT: PRAVDA HARSH ON SPAIN

REF: MOSCOW 1915

1. SUMMARY. A PRAVDA ARTICLE FEBRUARY 21 SUBJECTS THE

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NEW SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO THE HARSHEST CRITICISM WE
HAVE SEEN, AND INTIMATES THAT THE REGIME CANNOT LAST

IN ITS PRESENT FORM. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ARTICLE PLAYS UP THE ROLE OF THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY AND BEWALES ITS SUPPRESSION, AT A TIME WHEN PARTY SECRETARY SANTIAGO CARRILLO'S ABSENCE FROM THE CPSU PARTY CONGRESS MUST HAVE BEEN FORESEEN. IT WOULD APPEAR TO US THAT STATEMENTS OF THIS NATURE INDICATE THAT SOVIET RECOGNITION OF SPAIN MAY YET BE A WAY DOWN THE ROAD. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ARTICLE, BY PRAVDA CORESPONDENT E. GRIGOR'YEV, IS DATEDLINE "MADRID-MOSCOW," INDICATING THAT GRIGOR'YEV WROTE IT FORM INFORMATION RECEIVED IN MADRID, BUT ALSO ON THE BASIS OF GUIDANCE RECEIVED IN MOSCOW.

3. GRIGOR'YEV STTES FLATLY THAT THE "MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE" REJECT THE NEW REGIME, WHICH STILL MUST REPLY ONTHE HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS IN THE ARMY AND ON THE POLICE FOR ITS SURVIVAL. THIS "REPRESSIVE APPARATUS," ACCORDING TO GRIGOR'YEV, "DEMONSTRATES ITS AUTHORITY BY USE OF NIGHT STICKS." SUCH REPRESSION IS ALSO LEGAL, HE SAYS, SINCE "ELEMENTARY RIGHTS ACCEPTED IN ANY OTHER CONTEMPORARY BOURGEOIS STATES ARE ABSENT." GRIGOR'YEV SAYS THAT LOCAL OBSERVERS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE DEATH OF FRANCO "HAS NOT CHANGED THE ESSENCE OF THE REGIME." BUT THESE OBSERVERS ADD, HE CONTINUES, THAT "MUCH HAS COME INTO MOVEMENT."

4. GRIGOR'YEV DESCRIBES THE "UNIQUE" SITUATION IN WHICH SPAINS'S "ILLEGAL PARTIES" OPERATE IN THE OPEN, IN FULL VIEW OF AUTHORITIES, AND DECIDES THAT IT IS "OBVIOUS THAT THE REGIME CAN NO LONGER RELY ENTIRELY ON THE OLD CONSTITUTION." HE CONTINUES THAT THE WORKING CLASS IS NOW THE DRIVING FORCE IN THE MOVEMENT TOWARD DEMOCRACY, AND THAT THE SPEED WITH WHICH DEMOCRATIZATION CONTINUES WILL DEPEND ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH IT IS ALLOWED TO ARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL LIFE. BUT HE QUOTES THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY LEADER RUIS JIMENEZ THAT THE PEOPLE WILL ALLOW NO BACK-SLIDING, NO RETURN TO THE OLD SYSTEM. AND HE QUOTES "A HIGH-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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RANKING BUREAUCRAT" WHO PREFERRED TO REMAIN ANOYMOUS THAT "DEMOCRATIZATION IS UNAVOIDABLE. IT WILL MOVE FASTER THAN THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING...THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT LAST LONG. NEW FORCES WILL COME, AND IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

5. A MAIN THREAD RUNNING THROUGH THE ARTICLE IS THE PRESENT UNEQUAL STATUS OF THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY --THE REFUSAL OF THE REGIME TO ALLOW IT TO OPERATE ON THE SAME OPEN BASIS AS THE OTHER PUTATIVELY "ILLEGAL"

PARTIES, AS EVIDENT FROM ARRESTS OF LEADING COMMUNIST FIGURES--AND AT THE SAME TIME ITS DECIDING ROLE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRATIZATION AS "ONE OF THE LARGEST AND OST ORGANIZED CONSTITUENT PARTS" IN THE DEOCRATIC MOVEMENT. THE REGIME, GRIGOR'YEV CONTENDS, "FEARS ITS INFLUENCE AMONG THE PEOPLE.

6. COMMENT. THOUGH GRIGOR'YEV DOES NOT CONDEMN THE RIGIME OUTRIGHT, HIS DESCRIPTION OF ITS ACTIVITIES-- AND COMMENTS ON ITS PROBABLE LOGEVITY--ARE THE HARSHEST WE HAVE SEEN IN THE SOVIET MEDIA. WHILE IT MAY BE AS OUR SPANISH SOURCE IN MOSCOW TOLD US THAT NO REMAINING QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE STAND IN THE WAY OF SOVIET RECOGNITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT (REFTEL), IT WOULD APPEAR TO US THAT STATEMENTS SUCH AS GRIGOR'YEV'S INDICATE THAT SUCH RECOGNITION IS NOT IMMINENT. IT LOOKS TO US AS F MOSCOW HAS DECIDED TO HEDGE ITS BET ON THE REGIME TO SEE HOW THE PRODUCT OF ITS OWN STABLE--THE PCE--DOES IN THE NEXT FEW CONTESTS.

7. IN ADDITION, THE CPSU MUST STILL HOPE TO MODERATE PCE BEHAVIOR IN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS. TO SOME EXTENT PRAVDA'S RINGING SUPPORT OF SPANISH COMMUNISTS MAY ALSO BE AN ATTEMPT TO EVOKE A FAVORABLE ECHO AT A MOMENT THE SOVIETS MUST HAVE KNOW SECRETARY GENERAL SANTIAGO CARRILLO PLANNED TO BE ABSENT FROM THEIR PARTY CONGRESS, AND KNEW FOR SURE THAT BREZHNEV WAS PLANNING A THINLY VEILED ATTACK ON HIM FOR HIS STATEMENT THAT PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM IS OUT OF DATE.

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